

FALL 2006

# KANSAS ARTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION



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ARTS.STATE.KS.US

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**MARCH 8, 2007**

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## NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES KANSAS RESIDENCY

On Monday, Oct. 2, 2006, the Kansas Arts Commission and National Symphony Orchestra held a joint news conference at the state Capitol to announce the National Symphony Orchestra's American Residency in Kansas.

"On behalf of the National Symphony Orchestra and the Kennedy Center, it gives me great pleasure to accept the Kansas Arts Commission's invitation," said Executive Director Rita Shapiro. "We look forward to Learning more about the people and state of Kansas."

Topeka, Lawrence, Hays, Wichita and Pittsburg are the host cities for the orchestra's 2007 Kansas Residency.

The National Symphony Orchestra will perform concerts in these cities and hold scores of activities

throughout Kansas communities.

For more information on the National Symphony Orchestra's American Residency in Kansas, as well as post-residency opportunities for music students, teachers and composers, visit <http://arts.state.ks.us>.



TIM VAN LEER (LIED CENTER OF KANSAS), RITA SHAPIRO (NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA), ANITA WOLGAST (CHAIR OF THE KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION) AND JOHN WESLEY STRICKLER (MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE TOPEKA SYMPHONY) ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE KANSAS STATEHOUSE ON OCT. 2.

## KANSANS CELEBRATE BOOKS, ART AND CULTURE AT A FESTIVAL IN WICHITA

The Governor's Council on the Arts and Culture sponsored the first annual Kansas Book Festival at Wichita's Lawrence Dumont Stadium on Friday, Sept. 28, and Saturday, Sept. 29.

Three stages showcased continuous performances and presentations by Kansas authors, artists, musicians and presenters. Over 7,000 people attended.

On Friday, Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Poet Laureate of Kansas Jonathan Holden led the book festivals opening ceremonies.

The festival culminated with a tribute to the late renaissance man Gordon Parks. Jazz artist Queen Bey performed, and University of Kansas film professor and screenwriter Kevin Willmott spoke about Parks' achievements in the arts.



LLEWELLYN CRAIN

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Kansas Arts Commission's new Public Information Officer, Matt Miller, and a fond farewell to program manager Karen Brady who brought so much to the team.

It is fitting, in a season of change, to begin a new strategic planning process. Some readers will undoubtedly remember the last time – seven years ago – that we asked the public to help us define our goals and strategies for our future. We now ask for your help again.

Over the next six months, we will ask you to join us at community meetings and focus groups and to respond to questionnaires about the future of the Kansas Arts

Commission. Please look for notices sent in the mail, via email and on our website for meetings closest to you.

The arts add so much to us Kansans. The arts contribute to economic development, to a thriving community life and to the excellence of children's education. The arts keep senior citizens young and give youth focus and discipline.

The arts provide immeasurable public value to all of us.

We want to make sure that you help us at the Arts Commission define what the public value of the arts means to you.

Llewellyn

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## THOMAS FOX AVERILL DISCUSSES LIFE AS A FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Each issue of the Kansas Arts Commission's newsletter highlights the work of a different organization or artist in Kansas. This issue, we showcase 2006 Kansas Artist Fellowship recipient Thomas Fox Averill of Topeka.

Each year, the Kansas Arts Commission awards fellowships to seven professional artists whose work and applications demonstrate artistic excellence and achievement. Writer and performer Thomas Fox Averill received the Kansas Artist Fellowship in 2006 for fiction. He is Writer-in-Residence and Professor of English at Washburn University in Topeka and can also be heard in radio commentaries as William Jennings Bryant Oleander.

"Winning the fellowship has had several positives," Tom remarked. "Probably most important is the intangible: writers need support; they count on corroboration that their work has merit, and they enjoy the

trust and confidence in their work that such a fellowship shows.

"The award has given me the confidence and purpose as I pursue what's next for me," said Averill. "I look forward to continuing to living and writing in and about the state."



Thomas Fox Averill

## GOVERNOR KATHLEEN SEBELIUS AND THE KAC ANNOUNCE THE 2007 POET LAUREATE OF KANSAS

Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Arts Commission announce Dr. Denise Low, Lawrence, as the next Poet Laureate of Kansas. Her term begins July 1, 2007, and ends June 30, 2009.

"Dr. Low is a wonderful selection for our new poet laureate," said Governor Sebelius. "I hope her exemplary work will inspire Kansans to further explore Kansas poetry and literature."

Low is interim chair of the College of Humanities and Arts at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. She looks forward to promoting poetry in Kansas.

"During these next several years, I hope to share my own excitement about poetry with our libraries, public schools, arts centers and alliances and reading groups," said Low.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## **FY 08 GRANT PROGRAMS AND GUIDELINES**

Most Kansas Arts Commission Fiscal Year 2008 grant guidelines will be available and posted on the KAC website on January 2, 2007.

There are many changes to the guidelines, so please read them carefully before applying.

The new guidelines are:

- Operational Support for Large and Small-Budget Arts Organizations
- Arts Infrastructure Grants for Arts Organizations (formerly known as Technical Assistance grants)

- Arts-in-Education Grant Programs
- Arts-in-Communities Project Mini-Grants (formerly known as the Grassroots Program)
- Arts-in-Communities Grants (formerly known as Arts Project Support)
- Kansas Arts on Tour
- Kansas Visual Arts Program

Plus a special section for all applicants.

## **ABOUT THE KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION**

The mission of the Kansas Arts Commission is to ensure that the almost 2.7 million citizens of Kansas value and celebrate the arts throughout their lives.

*If you receive more than one copy of this newsletter, please pass it on!*

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